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HB 2028, HD 2 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR A SPACE PORT IN HAWAII

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Business Development and Pacific Relations
Public Hearing - March 16, 1988

By
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John Harrison, Environmental Center

HB 2028, HD 2 would provide funds for environmental and technical studies necessary for site selection and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a launching facility in Hawaii. This draft reflects amendments to HB 2028 to incorporate comments received at the initial hearing on HB 2028.

Our statement on this bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The amendment of the bill to broaden the purpose of the funds so as to include their use for environmental and technical studies pertinent to site selection as well as the preparation of the EIS reflects suggestions made by the Environmental Center in our earlier testimony on this bill, and we support this amendment.

Furthermore, we are pleased to note that the committee report (SCR 687-88) recognizes the expertise of the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

The studies that would be funded by HB 2028, HD 2 are essential to the development of a space port/launching facility. In carrying out these studies, the primary focus of the expenditure must be on the compilation and preparation of high quality, comprehensive, environmental studies. The scope of these studies must reflect the nature and scope of the facility to be developed. Therefore, expenditure of funds for environmental and technical studies pertinent to site selection in addition to the EIS is highly appropriate.